

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 04017 101456Z

43

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 INT-08 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8452

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 4017

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, ET

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENT OF ETHIOPIAN POTASH RESOURCES

REF: ADDIS 9954

1. MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES TESHOME GEBRE MARIAM HAS INFORMED US THAT AS A RESULT OF UDI (EISENBERG GROUP'S) APPARENT UNWILLINGNESS TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO DEVELOPING DANAKIL POTASH RESOURCES AT THIS TIME, HIS MINISTRY WOULD AGAIN BE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING EXPLOITATION OF THESE RESOURCES WITH SUITABLE AMERICAN COMPANIES. ACCORDING TO TESHOME, EISENBERG'S INITIAL CHANGE OF HEART APPARENTLY TOOK PLACE LATE LAST YEAR AFTER ETHIOPIA SEVERED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. AT THAT TIME, EISENBERG TOLD MINISTRY MINES THAT IT WISHED TO POSTPONE TEMPORARILY ITS PLANS TO GO AHEAD WITH PROJECT. SINCE THEN, TESHOME HAS SENT SEVERAL MESSAGES TO COMPANY TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER IT STILL SERIOUS, BUT HAS RECEIVED NO REPLY. ON APRIL 9, HE SENT A CABLE INFORMING THEM THAT IEG WOULD SEEK OTHER PARTIES TO TAKE UP PROJECT.

2. TESHOME MENTIONED THAT IN MEANTIME A CONSORTIUM OF MITSUBISHI, NISSHO-IWAI AND CONOCO'S AGRICO CHEMICAL DIVISION HAS EXPRESSED SOME INTEREST AND HELD INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTRY, BUT THAT NO COMMITMENTS HAVE YET BEEN MADE.

WYMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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